/129 cont'd/

755 sick man was lying on the ground, as thin as a stick. When we in-
796 quired about his illness, we learned that he was suffering from stomach trouble, probably caused by careless eating. Since the only medicine we had on hand was a box of "Gardon," we gave him a grain to take. We asked three boys to come back with us to fetch more stomach medicine so that the patient could continue taking it. When we reached our lodgings it was one o'clock in the morning.

Second month, twentieth day. (Saturday)

132 It was rather chilly when we rose early in the morning, and the
137 thermometer read 58° Fahrenheit. When I first arrived here I was surprised to see only a few solitary coconut palms, which was quite different from the dense growths of coconut palms to be found elsewhere in Hainan. Now I began to understand: because this area is adjacent to the interior part of Hainan Island, it is cut off from outside air by several layers of high mountains, and the temperature here is thus lower, and it is not easy for coconut palm trees to grow big in this climate.

126 At eleven o'clock in the morning, we left for Yen-sheng village
764 to watch a burial ceremony. The whole affair, from beginning to end, was filmed with a motion-picture camera by Mr. /130/ Kuang Po-hsiao, as an opportunity of this kind is very hard to come by. The
[71] ceremony was in many instances influenced by Chinese customs, traces of which could be seen in such things as paper banners, mourning garments worn by members of the family, stone tablets for tombstones, etc. The whole ceremony took several hours, and it was not until four in the afternoon that the burial was completed.

123 According to the original plans of our party, we were to split into two groups at this place, from which we would pursue different routes for our excursions. At night we discussed our future plans and decided upon a general outline of the work to be done.

/35 cont./

M 361 [369] interconnected. Without a guide one can get lost once inside a chai; turning right and left, one will be unable to find an exit. Chinese passing through a Miao chai often cannot find a single Miao, because they have gone into hiding in small alleys, barring the doors and refusing to come out. The Miao chais M [487] are not located along lines of communication but in the deep mountains and valleys accessible only by small paths. Although visible at a distance, they often cannot be reached. Without modern arms, they cannot be easily taken. For the last few hundred years continuous Miao unrest in western Hunan may be largely related to the fact that their chais were easy to defend and difficult to capture.

M 342 C [342] Houses. — Chinese houses within the Miao area generally are built with walls of sun-dried brick, and roofs covered with tiles. The Miao house is slightly different from the Chinese house. Chinese houses are generally of the three-room type, but Miao houses may consist of one, two, three, four, or five rooms. Wealthy families generally build five-room, two-story houses, with brick walls and tile roofs. Ordinary houses have three rooms with walls made of brick, stone in pieces, or sun-dried brick, and a roof covered with tiles or sometimes slates, pine bark, or thatch. (Illus. 14).[1] Pine trees are abundant in M [137] the Miao area /Illus. 11, 12 on pp. 36, 37/ /38/ /Illus. 13 appears here/ and timber is relatively plentiful, hence moderately well-to-do families build two-story houses. Pine bark when pressed flat with stone slabs is used by poor families as a substitute for roof tiles. Slates are abundant in the Miao frontier. The thicker ones are used for building walls and paving streets, the thin ones for roofing. The use of stone slates and bark for roofing is rarely seen in other parts, and it is a distinct feature of the Miao area.

The most common Miao house types are either the two-room type with three pillars and four frames or the three-room type with four pillars and four-frames (Illus. 15).[2] In a three-room type house the middle room is the main room. On the M 353 778 177 rear wall is attached an ancestral tablet (in imitation of the

[text continues on p 63]

1 [See cat. 116, p64- ANALYST]
2 [" " p65- "]

2:Ling & Ruey--322 E-5 (1933) 1947 AE5 Miao AE5

137 ●
142
291
534
535*

Illus. 84. Woman's solo dance at Kan-ch'eng.

4:Mickey E-5 (1940-?) 1947 AE5 Miao AE5

Kweichow is considered the poorest agricultural province in all China. Much of the soil is poor, and the steep, narrow valleys give but little space for farms, which are therefore usually small and cultivated by simple methods. Cultivation is confined chiefly to upland plains, the few open valleys and terraced hillsides, and is dependent upon conditions of soil, slope, and water. The total area of cultivated and cultivable land is estimated at five per cent. At one time the chief crop was opium, but the Chinese Government has tried to stamp out the growing of the poppy. One geographer lists in order of second importance maize and buckwheat, then tobacco, bamboo, wheat, oats, sugar, rice, fruits, indigo, silk, cotton, hemp, beans, and wild silk. Another gives in order of acreage rice, maize, beans, wheat, barley, and millet. In general, it may be said that rice is grown wherever possible and there forms the staple food. In the poorer mountain districts, where rice cannot be grown, the people depend upon maize, barley, and millet. Nowhere is more than one crop of rice grown and the harvest is in September or October. Winter crops commonly include wheat, pulse and oil seeds such as rape. There is a variety of excellent vegetables grown through the year. Fruits of the province include peaches, pears, apricots, persimmons, oranges, and lemons. There are also large crops of walnuts and chestnuts, including a wild variety. The chief trees are the fir, pine, and oak in the east, the t'ung in the west. In spite of rapid cutting, large reserves are thought to remain in Kweichow. The bambo trees are of several species, some suitable for construction and the making of articles of common household use and huge rain hats, others having edible sprouts. Tsunyi in the northern part of the province has industries for the making of a kind of cheap silk cloth and waterproof silk cloth, native umbrellas, and cotton goods. The villages of

311 [134] 245 137 288

4:Mickey E-5 (1940-?) 1947 AE5 Miao AE5

The villages of
Sze-nan and San-kioh both are important lumber centers. 313

Tigers are reported in the northeastern part of the province. There are also said to be wolves, wild boars, white pheasants, and giant salamanders. I have seen wild cats in the hills and rabbits for sale in the market at Kweiyang. There are many domestic animals, including "yellow cows," water buffalo, pigs, sheep, goats, ducks, geese, and chickens. The first two are used as draft animals, for plowing. There are no full-sized horses, but ponies and small mules are used as pack animals. 136 231

In mineral wealth Kweichow is considered to have greater possibilities than any other province of China. Coal is common and may be had for merely scratching the surface. The richest mercury mines in the world are in Kweichow. It is the only mineral exported, although from the iron in Wei-ning cooking vessels are manufactured which are sold all over Yünnan, as well as Kweichow. In addition, there are gold, silver, copper, and nitrate of potash in sufficient quantities to warrant mining them. 135

The province should also be of great interest to botanists. I met in Kweiyang an Austrian who had collected over three hundred species of plants. As I went to market from the mountain village in which I was living to Lung-li I would count the flowering plants I saw. There were never fewer than thirty in blossom, many times more than fifty. At times the hills would be rosy with azaleas, at other times blue with bluebells of several kinds, while during their season more than a hundred white lilies would be in view at certain points. Hedges of wild roses border some of the paths. There are wild fruit trees, berries, and flowering vines. Nearly every flowering plant we grow with much care in our gardens is found wild on the Kweichow mountains. 137

4-Mickey E-5 (1940-?) 1947 AE5 Miao AE5

right, brought one to a cluster of seven Chinese houses about the Huang family temple. Four-tenths of a mile beyond was a Chung-chia village. In the other part of the valley were smaller villages of Cowrie Shell Miao and Chung-chia and the home of the large, extended family of Chinese of whom the *lien pao* official was a member.

The rest of the valley, except for one deep cleft, was made up of knolls and depressions and given over to fields in which rice was the chief fall crop, with tobacco, chillies, beans, maize, and millet playing a minor role, and wheat, broad beans, peas, and rape were the spring ones. Vegetable gardens, in which were grown a continous succession of vegetables, occupied the lower slopes of the nearest hills. There were bamboo and nut trees in the wood and edible bamboo in the thickets about the village. A little stream ran through that part of the valley in which Yang-chia-sai lay and through the cleft mentioned above reached the end of the valley toward Lung-li, where it became a waterfall. A second stream watered the other part of the valley and flowed toward the south. From the springs and streams water was carried for household use. The presence of these sources of water and the pond gave the valley its name of Ting-shué-pa, meaning "divide where water is assured." The bamboo thickets and the wood furnished timber and faggots, both timber and bamboo being used for the construction of buildings and many articles of household and farm use. The mountains were a source of fuel in the form of faggots, grass, weeds, and fern. From them the women brought grass for raincapes and food for cattle at certain seasons of the year. At others the children took ponies, cattle, and water buffalo to the mountains for grazing. All those in the vicinity — Miao, Chung-chia, and Chinese — made use of springs and mountains, but the various groups kept fairly separate.

39: Bernatzik--38 E-5 (1936-1937) 1947 AO1 Thailand
Akha A04
Miao AE5

/25 cont./

A 131 vicinity of the Mekong mountain gorge, and that large groups are settled in the eastern parts of Thailand and Indochina, especially east and north of the Mekong in upper Laos. The same author further asserts that many Akha entered Kengtung from the east by way of the Mekong Valley.

A 131 174 In addition to the ethnic groups in the eastern part of Thailand, I have found some in the north. According to my information, based on their traditions, these Akha of northern Thailand migrated south from the mountains north of Kengtung and, by way of Sŏma, Kengtung, Buta, Batya, and Bako, finally reached the Doy Tung, which, as a primitive mountain massif, projects out into the river valleys, and the Kaye, a mountain west of the Doy Tung. These regions, in addition to the calcareous mountains east of Nan, may be regarded as the southernmost habitation area of the Akha at present.

Like the Meau, the Akha, too, are in the midst of a migration whose main direction, aside from local deviations, is from north to south.

/26/

Chapter 4

Description of the Country

M 131 133 Today the Meau occupy parts of South and West China, of North China, Indochina, northern Thailand, and, here and there, northeast Burma. One would be inclined to assume that under these circumstances the character of the land would be very diverse. Actually, however, it is not, since these mountain tribes do not settle below a certain altitude. In almost M 133 all cases, therefore, we find extensive hilly areas, generally ● 137 covered with tropical monsoon forests, which, like the European deciduous forests, lose most of their leaves at a given season (the dry season). Two strongly marked seasons of the M 132 year are distinguished: the cold rainy season lasts from April to November; the dry season prevails during the remaining months. During the rainy season there are quite low temperatures and snowstorms, especially at higher altitudes and in the north.

/26 cont./

137 The flora varies according to the fertility of the soil.
134 The forested mountains of Farther India are densely covered with vegetation, whereas the highland of Kweichow is described as a barren open, and hilly land, whose soil composition is such that only one-fifth of the country seems to be suitable for human habitation (1). Kengtung is similar in appearance to

1. Von Eickstedt, V, p. 53.

133 Kweichow. The state lies in the extreme eastern part of Burma and borders on Yunnan in the north, on Thailand in the south; on the west it is bounded by the Salween River, on the east by the Mekong. The province of Kengtung, with its capital of the same name, is a mighty plateau, often bare and rocky, which /27/ rises from altitudes of 300 meters in the area of the Salween to altitudes of 3,000 meters between the Salween and the city of Kengtung.

137 Where the area has been inhabited by mountain tribes
[241] for a long time, the lofty forest has disappeared, since the hoe culture with the burning of clearings during the short fallow period prevents the growth of larger trees. The region is therefore completely covered with low, dense bush forest, in which fast-growing types of wood are greatly predominant.

361 It is a very peculiar fact that, as was pointed out, the mountain tribes seem to be bound to a definite altitude and cannot be persuaded to go below a certain altitude limit. This fact is often confirmed in the literature. Lajonquière (1), for

1. II, p. 305.

instance, points out that the Meau select the terrain quite high in the mountain massifs at the foot of rocks as places for their hamlets; Abadie (2) likewise reports similarly. We are

2. Page 158.

[101] indebted to Credner (3) for a more detailed account: "Above

39: Bernatzik--565 E-5 (1936-1937) 1947 AO1 Thailand
Miao AE5

Chapter 22

Communication

133 The mountainous land in northern Thailand, cut up by
487 steep valleys, is covered with dense primeval forest; treeless
[137] or stony slopes are rare. This gives the difficult mountain paths, which almost exclusively represent the lines of communication, a different character than we customarily associate with the idea of a mountain path. If one of these paths in northern Thailand
[491] leads across a brook, a mighty tree trunk usually forms the only bridge. Other facilities are unknown; there are no suspension bridges or corduroy roads. To be sure, deep streams which, for lack of a bridge, one would have to swim across are also absent. Nor are there streams which would make navigation possible. If the "road" in a valley follows a stream downward, then the bed of the stream is at the same time the path. Regular communication is therefore possible only during the dry season, whereas during the rains, the rising, torrential mountain streams isolate the individual villages.

487 In Indochina the routes of communication built and maintained by the Meau hardly seem to differ from those in Thailand, for Savina (1) writes concerning them: 'Never yet

1. II, p. 181.

has a Meau taken the trouble to make or to improve a path in
[461] the forest with a hatchet." According to my experience, however, carelessness or laziness is not the cause of this condition of the lines of communication, as Savina apparently assumes but rather the generally great burden of work of the Meau. Every individual among the Meau in northern Thailand gives the impression of being burdened beyond his physical capacity.
[361] Moreover, the Meau live in the smallest of villages; the paths are therefore little used and rapidly become overgrown again.

39: Bernatzik--707 E-5 (1936-1937) 1947 AO1 Thailand
Miao AE5

/Opposite p. 523/

361
137

Ill. 108. Partial view of the Meau settlement of Nam Fa in the source area of the Nam Wa.

39: Bernatzik--730 E-5 (1936-1937) 1947 AO1 Thailand
Miao AE5

/X cont./

361
[351]
[137]

Ill. 108. Partial view of the Meau settlement of Nam Fa at the end of the rainy season. In the vicinity of the houses there are gardens with fruit trees, behind them secondary forest on deserted fields, and in the background, the typical monsoon forest of Farther India.